

Statement

The main recommendations made by TRAI on the 3-G spectrum:

- * Spectrum identified for 3-G should be treated as a stand alone allocation and not as an extension of earlier spectrum allocation of 2-G;
- * The DOT (Government) should realize a spectrum acquisition fee from telecom service providers;
- * Following spectrum has been identified for 3-G services:
 - * 2 X 25 MHz in 2.1 GHz band (5 blocks of 2 X 5 MHz);
 - * 2 X 2.5 MHz in 800 MHz band (2 blocks of 2 X 1.25 MHz); and
 - * 2 X 5 MHz in 450 MHz band (Single blocks of 2 X 5 MHz).
- * Rural roll out obligations have been recommended as part of overall roll out obligations in a time bound manner;
- * Base price for acquisition of spectrum for 3-G has been recommended as Rs. 80 Crore for Delhi, Mumbai and category 'A' circles/areas; Rs. 40 Crore for Chennai, Kolkata and category 'B' circles/areas; and Rs. 15 Crore for category 'C' circles/areas;
- * Stiff penalty for hoarding (of spectrum) and non-compliance of roll out obligations;
- * The Organisation of Spectrum management needs to be strengthened.

Opening of new post offices in Andhra Pradesh

119. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received representation to open new post offices at various locations in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of new post offices set up in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years;

(d) the categories of post offices closed down during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(e) the criteria adopted for opening new post offices and closing down existing working post offices;

(f) the action taken by Government to open new post offices in Andhra Pradesh; and

(g) the time by which these post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the last two years 30 representations for opening new post offices at various locations in Andhra Pradesh were received. Out of these 3 representations were found justified as per prescribed norms for opening of post offices.

(c) In consonance with the policy directives of the Tenth Five Year Plan for rationalization of the Postal Network, no plan targets for opening of new post offices are being assigned since the year 2004-05. However, 7 post offices were opened in the last two years in areas where these were found justified as per prescribed departmental norms, by relocation of existing post offices from areas where these were no longer justified.

(d) In the last 3 years, 8 Gramin Dak Sewak Branch Post Offices were closed down since these were not justified as per prescribed norms for retention of post offices.

(e) The prescribed norms adopted for opening and retention of post offices are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(f) Action to open new post offices cannot be taken in view of the policy directives of the Tenth Five Year Plan for rationalization of the postal network and the fact that no targets for opening of new post offices are being assigned since the year 2004-2005;

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Statement*Level of access promised and norms for opening and retention of post offices*

1. Population and Distance Norms

- (a) Urban area—Population over 20 lakhs, 1.5 kms. distance from nearest post office
- (b) Urban area—Population upto 20 lakhs, 2 kms. distance from nearest post office
- (c) Normal rural areas—Population 3000, 3 kms. distance from nearest post office
- (d) Hilly, tribal desert—Population 5000 for individual village and 1000 for group of villages, 3 kms. Distance from nearest post office.

No two delivery offices should be closer than 5 kms. A delivery post office in an urban area should have a minimum of 7 postmen beats.

2. Income Norm for upgradation/opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices

Normal rural areas—Permissible limit of loss—Rs. 2400 per annum

Tribal and hilly areas—Permissible limit of loss—Rs. 4800 per annum

In urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a profit of 5% to be eligible for further retention.

3. Income Norm for Branch Post Offices

Normal rural areas—percentage of income to cost 33 1/3% Hilly, tribal, desert areas—percentage of income to cost 15%

4. Extent of subsidy allowed to post office

Normal rural areas—66 2/3%

Hilly, tribal, remote and desert areas—85%

There is no subsidy for the urban network. Each post office has to be financially self-reliant and earn 5% over costs after the first year.